

I CLAIM:

1. An ophthalmic device comprising:
a housing having a wall structure that circumscribes a center opening, said center opening containing an image reflective and magnification means;
a cover overlying said center opening, said cover having an abutment surface;
a hinge assembly interconnecting said cover and said housing; and,
said hinge assembly providing an axis of rotation between said housing and said cover that is radially and angularly offset from said wall structure; and,
said cover being rotatable from a closed position overlying said center opening to an open position behind said housing until said cover contacts the abutment surface at a predetermined angular orientation.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein said cover has an underside rim; and,
said hinge assembly includes at least one contact point which co-acts with said rim for supporting said device upon a selected underlying surface when the cover is in said open position.
3. The device of claim 2 wherein said cover has a peripheral wall, and said hinge assembly comprises a hinge body that inclines downwardly and outwardly from said peripheral wall;
at least two hinge flanges extending outwardly from said housing wall structure, with at least one of said hinge flanges including said contact point; and,
said hinge assembly further including a hinge pin extending transversely through said hinge flanges and hinge body along said axis of rotation.
4. The device of claim 3 wherein said peripheral wall includes an extension part, and said hinge body extends from said extension part.

5. The device of claim 4 wherein the extension part includes said abutment surface.
6. The device of claim 3 wherein at least said two hinge flanges are spaced-apart a predetermined distance, and said hinge body having a width that is less than said predetermined distance.
7. The device of claim 3 wherein said cover defines a cover plane and said hinge body inclines at an acute angle relative to said cover plane.
8. The device of claim 3 wherein said housing defines a housing plane, and said hinge flanges extend from said wall structure in a plane that is about parallel to said housing plane.
9. The device of claim 8 wherein each of said at least two hinge flanges extend to an outer end portion with a contact point being located at each one of said outer end portions.
10. The device of claim 9 wherein said hinge body has a distal end portion, said hinge pin extending through said distal end portion and through each one of said hinge flange outer end portions.
11. In a device for viewing magnified images of a user's eye, comprising:
 - an enclosure having an enclosure underside and an image-reflecting and magnifying means;
 - a cover for said enclosure, having an abutment surface and a cover underside, wherein the improvement comprises:
 - a. a hinge assembly that interconnects said cover and said enclosure, said hinge assembly providing an angular rotation of said cover about an axis of rotation by a predetermined amount until said abutment surface of engages said enclosure

underside, said hinge assembly including at least one hinge contact point, and said cover underside providing at least one cover contact point to create a support stand for resting the enclosure in an operational position upon an underlying surface.

12. The device of claim 11 wherein said cover defines a cover plane, and said enclosure defines an enclosure plane, said axis of rotation being offset from either one or both of said cover plane and enclosure plane.

13. The device of claim 12 wherein said axis of rotation is spaced-apart from said enclosure and said cover.

14. The device of claim 13 wherein said cover plane and said enclosure plane form an angle that ranges from about 60° to 100° when the enclosure is in an operational position.

15. A method of using an ophthalmic device comprising an enclosure containing image reflecting and magnifying means, and a cover having a cover contact point, said cover overlying the enclosure and being connected to the enclosure by a hinge assembly, said hinge assembly having an axis of rotation and a hinge contact point; the method comprising:

a. while holding the enclosure and cover in a generally horizontal position, grasping the cover and rotating the cover about said axis of rotation by an angular amount of at least about 270°, until a portion of the cover abuts a portion of the enclosure;

b. rotating the device about 60° to 100° while maintaining the cover in the abutted position of step a.;

c. placing the device on a selected underlying surface, so that the cover contact point and hinge contact point rest upon the underlying surface; and,

d. while the device rests upon said selected underlying surface, looking into said enclosure and viewing a reflected image.